• *Standardization*

Feedback in consultation with respective State Governments on the UNICODE for Indian Languages is communicated to UNICODE Technical committee from time to time.

- *Information Dissemination*

(i)TDIL Web site: http://tdil.mit.gov.in

The TDIL website is bi-lingual (English and Hindi) and contains information about the TDIL Programme, it's initiatives and achievements. The website also provides various downloadable softwares and tools in Indian Languages. The unique services provided by the website include, E-mail in Hindi and Online Machine Translation from English to Hindi, (ii) Vishwabharat@tdil : The quarterly publication Vishwabharat@tdil consolidates in one place information about products, tools, services, activities, developments, achievements in the area of Indian Language software.

Decrease in BSNL/MTNL land line market

2578. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the losing grip on the Indian Market by the country's major landline operators, both BSNL and MTNL during the last two years;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation; and

(c) the details of the competitive approach adopted by the BSNL and MTNL in relation to the private operators who have been reducing their tariff rates continuously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) In a multi-operator and competitive scenario, churning of customers is a normal phenomenon. However, BSNL and MTNL continueto remain leaders in landline market As on 30-06-2003, the subscriber base of two PSUs was 403.68 lakh landlines (wired + WLL) as compared to total of 31.77 lakh landlines wired+WLL) of private operators.

(b) and (c) BSNL and MTNL have taken several steps to stay competitive, including improving reliability of telecom services with focus on customer satisfaction, providing whole range of telecom services, including value added services and offering competitive tariffs with a number of alternative packages to meet differing needs and usage patterns of their customers.